
Victim Services Mission Statement

Mission: To work with applicable laws within the Department of Correction serving victims' interests in promoting public safety while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.



Victim Services

Tennessee Department of Correction
320 Sixth Avenue North
5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0465

Phone: 615-741-1000 *8145
Fax: 615-741-1055
E-mail: Sheryl.demott@state.tn.us
Website:

www.state.tn.us/correction/victims

Your VOICE is important, and we want to hear from you~~tell us how we're doing! Go to the above website and click on the 'SURVEYS' Link.

Government Agencies

Board of Probation and Parole

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1300
Nashville, TN 37243-0850
Phone: 615-741-1150 / Fax: 615-741-5337
Email: victim.witness@state.tn.us
Website: www.tn.gov/bopp/victims

TN District Attorneys General Conference

Statewide Victim Coordinator
Phone: 615-532-5591 / Fax: 615-253-6735
Email: scjones@tndagc.org
Website: <http://www.tndagc.com/>

Criminal Injury Compensation

Division of Claims Administration
Phone: 615-741-2734 / Fax: (615) 532-4979
Email: Criminal.Injury@state.tn.us
Website:
<http://www.treasury.state.tn.us/injury/index.htm>

State Attorney General

Victim Liaison
Phone: 615-532-1971
Website: <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/>

Crime Survivor's Guide

**Available from the website below*

You Have the Power, Inc.

2814 Twelfth Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: 615-292-7027 / Fax 615-292-4088
Email: Verna.Wyatt@yhtp.org
Website: www.youhavethepower.org



VICTIM SERVICES

A Division of Rehabilitative Services

George Little, Commissioner

Jim Cosby
Assistant Commissioner of
Rehabilitative Services

*"Whatever affects one
directly, affects all indirectly."*

Martin Luther King

Sheryl DeMott,
Victim Services Director



Services available to Crime Victims through TDOC

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions.
- Community referrals and assistance with concerns related to offenders under the Department's jurisdiction.
- Registration for victim notification regarding any hearings, decisions, release dates, movement to a prison designated with a lower security level, escape of an offender, or pending execution.
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender.

Other Victim Services Activities

- Community education programs.
- Coordinates with the Board of Probation and Parole, the Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's office to respond to victims' concerns.
- Provides education to Department staff to increase awareness of victims' issues.
- Collaboration with other victim advocates.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
~Martin Luther King

Programs facilitated by the Victim Services Department

○ Victim Offender Dialogue

Victim Offender Dialogue is a process in which the victim of a violent crime and the offender who committed the offense meet. The focus is on the harm done to the victim and the offender's responsibility in the reparation of that harm.

○ Victim Awareness

Create awareness regarding the harm experienced from crime and victim issues to the community, victim advocacy agencies, universities, and to Department staff.

○ Victim Impact Classes for Offenders

Classes for offenders from research-based curriculum teach offenders about the impact of crime on victims, victim families, and the families of the offender. The class is taught in two formats:

- As a 1-3 day seminar class during pre-release classes in all institutions.
- As a 12-week 'stand-alone' class, in therapeutic communities or substance abuse programs.

Victims/survivors of crime who are willing to speak to an audience of offenders are invited to come into the prison and speak about the impact crime has had on his/her life, and the lives of their loved ones. Interested persons may contact the Victim Services office.

Frequently asked questions

As a crime victim, will I be notified of upcoming parole hearings or release dates for the offender?

To receive notification of upcoming parole hearings, release dates, escape of an offender, or pending execution, you must contact the Victim Services Department, or you can visit the website and fill out a form on-line at this address:

<http://state.tn.us/correction/voice.html>

Remember, to remain on the TDOC mailing list, it is your responsibility to inform Victim Services of any changes in your address.

Can I let the Parole Board know how I feel about a possible release of an offender?

Anyone can send information to the Board of Probation and Parole at any time regarding his/her feelings about a potential parole. Those registered for notification receive information 30 days before the parole hearing, listing available options to let the Parole Board know your wishes. You may also contact them through the information listed on the reverse side of this form; or you may contact the TDOC Victim Services Director.

Why was the offender moved to a prison with a lower security designation?

TDOC moves offenders for many reasons. Lower Security Designation does not mean the facility is less secure; it refers to a prison that houses those with a lower custody level than where the offender was located before.